

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PA

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: A) ASUNCION 3792; B) STATE 21240

SUMMARY. AFTER A FURTHER REVIEW OF SECURITY MEASURES AT PARAGUAY'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, EMBASSY HAS CONCLUDED THAT A COMBINATION PROGRAM PROVIDING ORIENTATION FOR HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS AND TRAINING OF LOWER OFFICIALS IS ESSENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF AIRPORT SECURITY IN PARAGUAY AND RECOMMENDS U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THESE AREAS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FOLLOWING UP ON REF (A), EMBASSY OFFICIALS VISITED AIRPORT AND DISCUSSED PROBLEMS AT LENGTH WITH ADMINISTRATOR AS WELL AS WITH SECURITY OFFICER. CONVERSATIONS WERE ALSO HELD WITH ICAO REPRESENTATIVE, WHO ACTS AS ADVISOR TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE. EMBASSY HAS CONCLUDED THAT CONTINUED PRESSURE FROM U.S. PLUS SOME FOREIGN TRAINING MAY BE NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT PRESENT CROWDED, POORLY EQUIPPED AND ADMINISTERED AIRPORT BE KEPT AS SECURE AS POSSIBLE AND THAT NEW AIRPORT WHICH IS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION TAKES ADVANTAGE OF ALL RECENTLY DEVELOPED TECHNIQUES IN SECURITY FIELD.

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2. PROSPECTS FOR TRAINING SECURITY PERSONNEL SEEM

GOOD AND TIMELY IN VIEW OF THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIRPORT. AS NOTED IN REF(A), PRESENT CHIEF OF AIRPORT SECURITY HAS VISITED U.S., IS AWARE OF PROPER PROCEDURES AND, IN FACT, HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY DURING PAST TWO YEARS. IN ADDITION, ICAO REP, WHO HAS BEEN ACTING AS ADVISOR TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE UNDER A UN PROJECT, PLANS SEND UP TO 6 OF SECURITY STAFF TO BUENOS AIRES FOR TRAINING AND WOULD LIKE TO SEND ONE OFFICIAL TO FAA TRAINING PROGRAM IN OKLAHOMA. TRAINING WOULD TAKE PLACE SOME TIME IN 1977 TO PREPARE PERSONNEL FOR PROCEDURES IN NEW AIRPORT.

3. PROBLEM IN MEANTIME IS TO PERSUADE HIGHER OFFICIALS OF IMPORTANCE OF PROPER ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY SO THAT THEY WILL PROVIDE ESSENTIAL ATTENTION AND FUNDS TO PROBLEMS IN EXISTING AIRPORT AND IN NEW AIRPORT. AT PRESENT FUNDS ARE SCARCE, PRIORITIES ARE CONFUSED, AND ADMINISTRATION IS WEAK. A VISIT BY KEY PARAGUAYAN OFFICIALS TO WELL-RUN AIRPORTS IN THE U.S. (PERHAPS DULLES AND NATIONAL, COMBINED WITH SEVERAL DAYS CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON SECURITY TECHNIQUES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIC ORIENTATION NEEDED TO IMPROVE SECURITY. COLONEL FULVIO R. CUBILLA, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND COLONEL CESAR RUBIN ESPINOLA, PRESIDENT OF AIRPORT COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO MAKE SUCH A TRIP. FOLLOW-UP TRIPS TO ASUNCION BY FAA OFFICIALS IN THE COURSE OF THEIR NORMAL TRAVEL IN THIS AREA COULD THEN BE USEFUL IN REINFORCING ORIGINAL ORIENTATION.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT CUBILLA AND ESPINOLA BE INVITED TO VISIT UNITED STATES IN NEAR FUTURE FOR ORIENTATION PROGRAM IN AIRPORT ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY. ALTHOUGH CUBILLA MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COME, SINCE HE IS PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S PERSONAL PILOT AND FINDS IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BE AWAY, HE SHOULD BE INVITED AS MATTER OF PROTOCOL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ANY REQUEST BY ICAO FOR TRAINING OF PARAGUAYAN SECURITY OFFICIALS IN FAA'S OKLAHOMA SCHOOL. LANDAU

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